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ADVERTISER FARM & HOME HOUR WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS (EPISODE #OK4)

CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ-BLUE
(11:30-12:30) AM (SEPTEMBER 8, 1939) (FRIDAY)
TIME DATE DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

2. MUSIC: QUARTET, RANGERS' SONG.

3. ANNOUNCER: The last ten day report of the forest fire situation in
4. the country showed a total of more than nine thousand fires for this
5. year. More than eight thousand nine hundred of these fires burned an
6. area per fire of less than 300 acres. And were it not for the skill
7. and efficiency of the forces of the United States Forest Service and
8. the cooperating State and CCC organizations many of the fires might
9. have become a dangerous menace to life and property. However, the
10. eight thousand nine hundred comparatively small fires cause an amazing
11. amount of destruction in the forest lands of the United States. A great
12. majority of all forest fires are man-caused -- the result of sheer
13. carelessness. Remember this when you visit your National Forests. Never
14. throw away burning cigarettes or matches. Drown your campfires every
15. time before you leave camp. Observe the rules of good woodsmanship at
16. all times -- On the Pine Cone National Forest Ranger Jim Robbins was
17. called out to a fire at the Old Galahad picnic ground. It was caused by
18. a campfire at the base of a tall, scraggly wolf tree commonly called
19. Old Galahad, and from which the picnic ground was named. Because the
20. wind was blowing sparks from the old tree into the surrounding timber,
21. Jim had to set his crew to work to cut it down. Then he and Jerry Quick,
22. the assistant Ranger went up the creek to try to locate the camper
23. who had set the fire. As they approached a road some distance up stream
24. they saw a car driving along and hailed it. The driver admitted he had
25. built a camp fire at the foot of Old Galahad. But when he was informed
that he would be arrested, and Jim told him --
CAR IS THROWN INTO GEAR AND FADES AT HIGH SPEED

1. JERRY: (YELLING) Come back here. Stop that car. Hey, you,
2. stop!
3. JIM: You're wastin' your breath, son.
4. JERRY: We shouldn't have let him get away, Jim.
5. JIM: I know.
6. JERRY: We should have dragged him out of the car as soon as he
7. admitted he caused the fire.
8. JIM: There's no use starting a rough house if you don't have
9. to. He seemed peaceable enough when we stopped him at
10. first.
11. JERRY: Yeah. But he sure changed his tune when you said you'd
12. have to put him under arrest
13. JIM: Well I reckon we might as well head back toward the fire.
14. JERRY: Looks like the smoke's kinda clearin' away some.
15. JIM: Can't tell much when you've got a ground wind. Might
16. be blowin' all of it away from us.
17. JERRY: There isn't but a little wind now. We shouldn't have any
18. trouble with it.
19. JIM: Won't be any trouble if the boys got old Galahad out
20. down. With that snag standin' up there, blazing in the
21. wind and throwin' sparks all over the place, no
22. tellin' what might happen.
23. JERRY: There'll be a lot of people feel bad to hear old Galahad's
24. burned up.
25. JIM: Yep. There will be.

1. JERRY: I got a good look at that guy Dawson before he drove
2. off. And if I ever see him again, I'll grab him first
3. and ask him questions afterwards.

4. JIM: I reckon Mr. Dawson won't hang around here very long.
5. Well, let's get back to the fire. (FADING) Standin'
6. here talkin' won't do us any good.

7. MUSIC UP AND SEGUE INTO SCATTERED CROWD IN B.G.

8. JERRY: (FADING IN) Looks like our fire's under control Jim.
9. JIM: By George, that's fine. Here comes Ben now. I guess
10. we can start the boys mopping up.

11. JERRY: It didn't burn over more than about five acres—
12. JIM: That's five too many.

13. BEN: (FADING IN) I think we've got her licked now, Jim.
14. JIM: Good work, Ben. Have any trouble with old Calahad?
15. BEN: Not much. Felled him into the creek. I figured that'd
16. be the safest thing to do.

17. JIM: That's right.

18. BEN: Sure hated to cut down the old tree, Jim. Kinda like
19. goin' to the funeral of somebody in your own family.

20. JIM: I reckon so, Ben. It was a funny lookin' old tree,
21. but I'm going to miss seeing it here myself.

22. BEN: Did you find any trace of the fire setter, Jim?
23. JIM: We found a trace of him, all right, Ben.

24. BEN: You did? Where?

25. JERRY: The last we saw of him was the cloud of dust he raised
gettin' away.

1. BEN: You mean you had him and he got away from you?

2. JERRY Yeah.

3. BEN Which way did he go?

4. JERRY He came down the road past here.

5. BEN He did? Say, that musta been the fella that run into

6. the tree tryin' to get around our truck

7. JERRY Doggone it, if you'd known who he was you could have

8. stopped him.

9. BEN He hit the tree pretty hard. Musta smashed up the right

10. side of his car. We started down toward him, but he

11. backed up and drove away before we got there

12. JERRY Too bad it couldn't have been his head that hit the

13. tree instead of his fender.

14. JIM Jerry, you and Ben start the mop up. I'll warm up the

15. radio in the truck and contact the boys in the office

16. to let 'em know we've got the fire corralled. And I'll

17. give 'em a description of Dawson and his car, so they

18. can be on the lookout for him.

19. BEN: You think you got any chance of gettin' him, Jim?

20. JIM: Not much, Ben. But it won't hurt to let the Sheriff

21. know about it. I'll drop in at the court house when we

22. get back to town.

23. MUSIC UP AND OUT

24. J.P.: The Sheriff told me about your message, Jim. He sent

25. out the description of your man right away

1. JIM: Heard anything from him yet, Judge?

2. J.P.: He called in about an hour ago. But he didn't seem to

3. think there was very much possibility of catching up

4. with him.

5. JIM: I reckon there isn't.

6. J.P.: I've had more cases here in the J.P. court this year

7. than we've had for a long time.

8. JIM: Situation's been kinda bad.

9. J.P.: Do you have any idea where this man Dawson was from?

10. JIM: Well, he mentioned that he's been fishing up there in

11. that vicinity about twice a month all during the season.

12. J.P.: That doesn't mean a lot now that we have such good

13. highways leading into the forest. He might live

14. 30 miles away or three hundred.

15. JIM: That's a fact.

16. J.P.: Was it up near old Galahad where he started the fire?

17. JIM: Yes. It's under control now. We got out there in

18. pretty good time and tied into it before it had much of

19. a chance to get a good start.

20. J.P.: Did it do any damage to old Galahad himself?

21. JIM: Yes, that's where the fire started. Ben up the tree. We

22. had to cut it down to keep it from setting the rest

23. of the country on fire.

24. J.P.: That's a shame. I'm mighty sorry to hear that.

25. JIM: We hated to do it. But it was showering sparks for fifty

roads around.

1. J.P.: Old Galahad saw a lot of history made in this part
 2. of the country. The last treaty with the Indians
 3. who lived in this valley was made under his branches.
 4. I think he was a sort of an emblem of brotherhood to
 5. them. At least they used to hold ceremonies there.
 6. JIM: I've heard about it. I think Pess found an arrowhead
 7. near there one time.
 8. J.P.: What'll the kids around here do for a place to hold their
 9. Sunday-School picnics? There isn't another swimming hole
 10. in the country as good as that one.
 11. JIM: They aren't the only ones who'll miss it.
 12. J.P.: I should say they aren't.
 13. JIM: Well, if you hear anything on this man, Dawson let
 14. me know about it, Judge.
 15. J.P.: Gled to, Jim.
 16. PHONE RINGS: RECEIVER LIFTED
 17. JUDGE: Yes -- Who? -- Yes put him on the line - (TO JIM) Someone
 18. by the name of Joe Applegate.
 19. JIM: Yes, I know him. Runs a crossroads garage South of town
 20. about fifteen miles.
 21. J.P.: Hello? -- Yes -- Yes -- What's that? -- You have? -- Well
 22. hold him 'till the Sheriff gets there -- That's good.
 23. Thank you.
 24. RECEIVER REPLACED
 25. JIM: He's got Dawson?

1. J.P.: Yes. Said he stopped to have a tire fixed and his
2. fender straightened. He heard a description of Dawson
3. on the radio. (FADING) I'll get in touch with the
4. Sheriff and he'll go.

5. MUSIC UP AND OUT

6. J.P.: (FADING IN) It seems very unfortunate to me, Mr Dawson
7. that the law does not permit a larger fine for the
8. type of negligence involved in this case. The fine will
9. be \$25 and costs.

10. DAWSON: (ANGRILY) Twenty-five dollars?

11. J.P.: Yes. The court is not able to take into consideration
12. the intangible values in the destruction of a forest
13. fire.

14. DAWSON: I don't care what kind of values you consider. Twenty five
15. dollars is an outrageous fine. The Ranger himself
16. said it only burned over about five acres of small trees.

17. JIM: But those trees would have made valuable timber.

18. DAWSON: I suppose they would. But you can certainly grow more
19. of them.

20. JIM: Yes, in another twenty-five or thirty years.

21. J.P.: There are other very important factors to be
22. considered in this fine, Mr Dawson.

23.

24.

25.

1. DAWSON: You're only making a case for yourself. You're taking
2. advantage of me because I'm a visitor, and because you
3. think --

4. J. P.: (SHARPLY) Mr. Dawson, ordinarily such conduct would
5. demand a fine for contempt of court -- but let me ask
6. you this question -- have you ever seen a forest after
7. it had been swept by fire?

8. DAWSON: Well, no -- I don't think I have.

9. J. P.: I'm sure you haven't. If you had, you would remember
10. it still the day you die -- Now a moment ago you said
11. that the court was taking advantage of you as a non-
12. resident. In this court during the past three or
13. four months I have tried nearly twenty cases like
14. yours. Only two of the persons, still now, have been
15. non-residents.

DAWSON: Well, maybe so, but --

16. J. P.: One thing more. I am going to instruct Mr. Robbins to
17. take you with him, at once, to the scene of the fire you
18. started with your negligence. I hope you will remember
19. what it looks like hereafter.

20. MUSIC UP AND OUT SEQUE INTO CAR

21. CAR STOPS DOOR OPENS

22. JIM: We'll get out here, Mr. Dawson.

23. DAWSON: I want to hurry and get this over. It'll be dark now
24. before we get back to town.

1. JIM: Let's go over toward the creek -- you can see the area
2. that was burned -- all around us here. Over across
3. the creek, those boys are finishing the mop-up job on
4. the fire.
5. DAWSON: Do they have to stay here all night?
6. JIM: One of them will.
7. DAWSON: It looks like the fire's out now.
8. JIM: We hope it is. But we can't take any chances. No telling
9. when the wind might uncover a spark we didn't put out.
10. DAWSON: Oh, I see.
11. JIM: This same area burned over about fifteen years ago.
12. Old Galahad survived that fire pretty well. But we had
13. to plant trees in here after that. Of course, it's
14. worth the extra expense because this creek is the
15. source of the water supply for a lot of folks down in
16. the valley.
17. DAWSON: It doesn't look big enough for that.
18. JIM: Several smaller ones flow into it. It gets to be quite
19. a river a hundred miles below here. It supplies water
20. for the city where you live.
21. DAWSON: It does.
22. JIM: Yep -- I reckon we'll have to start planting again,
23. as soon as we have time to get around to it.
24. DAWSON: What's that tree lying in the creek for? It looks like
25. it was put there on purpose.

1. JIM: That's Old Galahad.
2. DAWSON: Oh ---
3. JIM: I reckon there isn't a person within a hundred miles
4. who doesn't know about this place. Most of 'em have
5. been here, too. My wife and the school teacher in Winding
6. Creek were going to bring some kids up here for a picnic
7. today. The kids belong to some poor families living in
8. the trailer camp near town. Those youngsters have only
9. been here for a few months. But they know all about Old
10. Galahad. The J.P. who tried your case has been
11. up here many a time. He taught his kids to swim there in
12. the crick where Old Galahad's roots reach out over the
13. water -- the fella that owns the garage where you stopped
14. to get your car fixed -- Joe Appleby -- he lives with
15. his mother. She's an old lady, almost blind now. Joe
16. used to bring her up here for a picnic once in a while.
17. It's about the only time she ever went outside -- You
18. couldn't have got fifty cents for the lumber in that
19. tree. But when the weekly paper comes out next Wednesday
20. it'll be sure to have a story about the death of Old
21. Galahad. And when the folks get together after Church,
22. Sunday, to pass around the gossip, that's pretty near all
23. they'll be talking about ---
24.
25.

1. DAWSON: Well now -- look here -- Ranger. I didn't know about
2. all this -- I well, if there's any way I could --
3. do something about it -- to replace, I mean --
4. JIM: That's just the trouble, Mr. Dawson, I've seen the same
5. thing happen so many times. And every time it's the
6. same story. You can't bring back the legend and sentiment
7. that grew up about this old tree. It's gone now, forever.
8. It was only a small fire we had here, caused by a simple
9. piece of carelessness, but the loss it has caused to the
10. people who live here will never be regained.

11. MUSIC UP AND OUT.

12. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers come to you every Friday on
13. the Farm and Home Hour through the courtesy of the
14. National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of
15. the United States Forest Service.

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25. ON MR. 11-C5
9/6/39

